

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

REVIEW CRITERIA
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993

**CRITERIA NUMBER 22 - SURGERY FOR CERVICAL RADICULOPATHY
FOR ENTRAPMENT OF A SINGLE NERVE ROOT**

I. Narrative Description:

- A. Decompression for entrapment of a single nerve root, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Cervical
 - a. Laminectomy
 - b. Discectomy
 - c. Laminotomy
 - 2. Foraminotomy with or without fusion, excluding fracture

II. History/Symptoms:

- A. Sensory symptoms in a dermatomal distribution such as:
 - 1. Radiating pain; **or**
 - 2. Paresthesia; **or**
 - 3. Tingling; **or**
 - 4. Burning sensation; **or**
 - 5. Numbness

AND

III. Physical Findings:

- A. Must meet one or more of the following:
- B. Dermatomal sensory deficit; **or**
- C. Motor deficit; **or**
- D. Reflex changes; **or**
- E. Positive EMG

AND

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IV. Diagnostic Testing:

- A. Abnormal test results that correlate with the level of nerve root involvement consistent with history and physical findings such as:
1. CT scan; **or**
 2. MRI; **or**
 3. Myelogram

AND

V. Failure to improve with a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks of conservative treatment:

- A. For Example:
1. Physical modalities; **and/or**
 2. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents; **and/or**
 3. Cervical traction

VI. Special Instructions:

- A. *Refer cases that fall into the following range:*
1. *repeat surgery at the same level*
 2. *request for surgery at the C3-4 level*
 3. *request for surgery with signs and symptoms indicating myelopathy*
 4. *any case not meeting criteria*
- B. *When requesting authorization for decompression of multiple level nerve roots, each level is subject to the criteria.*

VII. Level of Care Required:

- A. *Inpatient*